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NEWS RELEASE

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Third Haitian National Sentenced to 14 years in prison for Hostage Taking

WASHINGTON - A third Haitian national, Rochel Succes, 23, of Port Au Prince, Haiti, has been sentenced to 14 years in prison for his role in the hostage-taking of an 18-year-old naturalized American citizen in 2007, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Jonathan I. Soloman, Supervisory Special Agent in Charge of the Miami Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today.

Succes was sentenced earlier today in the U.S. District for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. Earlier this month, two co-conspirators, Lucson Renaldo Destine, 23, and Richardo Desir Theard, 31, both of Port Au Prince, Haiti, also received sentences of 14 years of imprisonment each.

Previously, the defendants admitted during their guilty plea proceedings conducted on February 26, 2009, that on the evening of April 13, 2007, they kidnaped the 18-year-old victim at gunpoint as he was waiting to pick up his younger sister from a residence she was visiting in Port Au Prince, Haiti. The victim was taken to a house under construction and held captive there overnight while the kidnapers negotiated with the victim's family for the payment of 400,000 US dollars as ransom in exchange for the victim's safe release. The following afternoon, the Anti-Kidnaping Unit of the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Civilian Police rescued the victim at that house, capturing two of the defendants at the scene and the third defendant a short time later.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Supervisory Special Agent in Charge Solomon commended the excellent work of the lead investigators in the case, FBI Special Agent Carlos Monero of the Miami field office and Special Agent Michael Greene of

the Atlanta field office. They also commended the U.S. Embassy in Port Au Prince, Haiti; the Legal Attaché Office of the FBI in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and the outstanding investigative skills of the Anti-Kidnaping Unit of the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Civilian Police, which resulted in the victim's safe rescue and the quick apprehension of the defendants. Finally, they commended Victim Witness Advocate Yvonne Bryant and Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt, who prosecuted the case.

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